

# BENT RIM BUGLE

# 50



*Yes, he did ride "grannies garden" balancing the bike soccer ball just like that....mountain bike soccer dirtstock 99....*



# 1999

# MMBA

MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

# FESTINA™

## WATCHES

## CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES SCHEDULE

You do not have to be an MMBA member to ride in any of the races listed.

**However, membership/race tabulation fee is required to be in the points series.**

Always check with promoter for information, current start times, race applications, pre-registration dates and date of events. See MMBA Championship Points Series Rules for eligibility (Feb 99). All dates on public properties are subject to land manager considerations and it is up to the rider to make sure that times and dates are current and correct. Pre-registration dates are determined by individual promoters and it is up to the rider to obtain current and correct pre-registration dates from each promoter. It is highly recommended that you renew your membership in the MMBA and pay the \$5.00 tabulation fee prior to the first race you want to count in the MMBA Festina CPS regardless of when your current membership expires. Only the results from the best seven races will be counted for series.

### APRIL 18 YANKEE SPRINGS / DEEP LAKE TIME TRIAL

Deep Lake Campground Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00-9:30am START: 10:00am  
KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

### MAY 2 FORT CUSTER STAMPEDE

Augusta, Michigan Mike Needham (616) 731-4078  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start  
START: Exp 10:00am, Sport 1:00pm, Beg 3:30 pm KIDS RACE: Free / 2:00pm

### MAY 16 ADDISON OAKS SPRING MTB RACE

Leonard, Michigan Oakland County Park (248) 858-4647  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 9:00am to 1/2 hr before start  
START: Beg 11:00am, Exp/Sport 1:30pm KIDS RACE: Free / 10:00am

### JUNE 20 RUBY CHALLENGE

Ruby Campground, Port Huron Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00-9:30am  
START: 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

### JULY 18 PONTIAC LAKE CROSS-COUNTRY

Pontiac Lake Rec Area, Waterford Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start  
START: 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

### AUGUST 8 BLOOMER CROSS-COUNTRY

Bloomer Park, Rochester Hills Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start  
START: Exp 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 2:30pm

### AUGUST 15 BIG M CROSS-COUNTRY

Big M Ski Area, Manistee Piranha Productions (248) 922-0018  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start  
START: Exp 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 2:00pm

### AUGUST 29 PONTIAC LAKE TIME TRIAL

Pontiac Lake Rec Area, Waterford Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start START: 10:00am  
KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

### SEPTEMBER 12 STONEY CREEK METROPARK xc

Stoney Creek Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00-9:30am START: 10:00am  
KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

### SEPTEMBER 19 ADDISON OAKS FALL MTB RACE

Leonard, Michigan Oakland County Park (248) 858-4647  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 9:00am to 1/2 hr before start  
START: Beg 11:00am, Exp/Sport 1:30pm KIDS RACE: Free / 10:00am

### OCTOBER 17 GARLAND HAMMER XC

Garland Resort, Lewiston Larry Kinney (517) 786-2211 x1313  
FEE: \$25 Pre-reg, Day of \$30 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start START: TBA  
KIDS RACE: \$5 / TBA NOTES: Gourmet meal included for all paid Adult and Kids Race entrants.

### OCTOBER 24 CANNONBURG CHALLENGE

Cannonburg Ski Area, Grand Rapids Fun Promotions (616) 453-4245  
FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start  
START: Exp 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 2:00pm



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☐ Northeast

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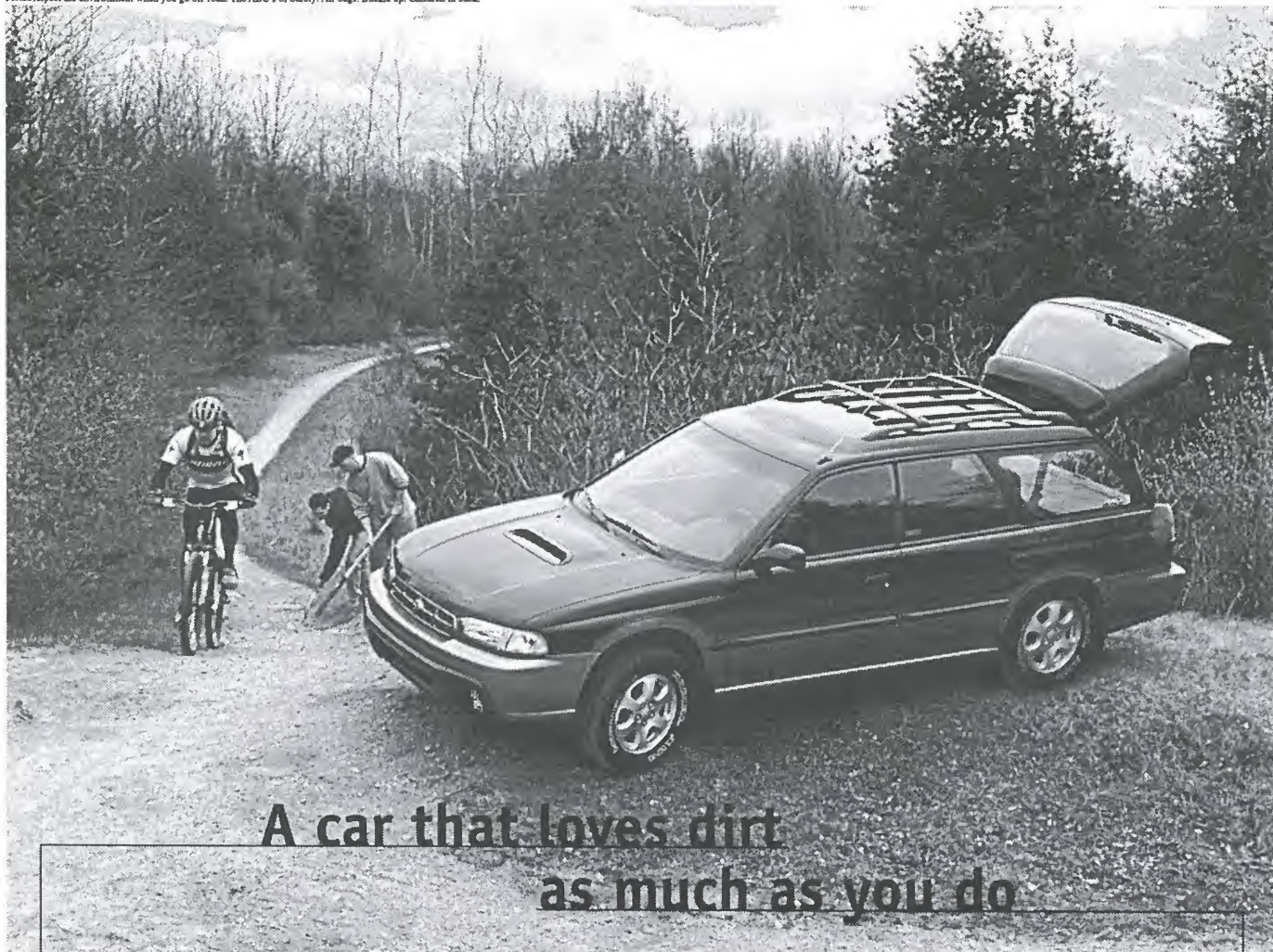
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with unlimited potential - Use them wisely.

This mag. is printed on recycled paper  
"...I see trees of green, red roses too,  
I see them bloom for me and you..."

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September 1999 all rights reserved....you got it all that legal  
stuff....

This zine was established in 1986 by Craig Stutsky,  
Bonnie Alsum and Steve Pruett.

## Northern Chapter of the MMBA

by Terry Ritter

It was a beautiful  
day at the Big M race this year, as any  
of you that attended can attest. The  
sun was shining, the temperature was  
easily bearable and the course was  
better than last year. What a great job  
Robert and all the Volunteers, from the  
various chapters, did to make this event  
such a success. I enjoyed the camping  
the night before ("thank you" to  
**everyone who contributed to the  
mowing fund**), had a pretty good race,  
and even got to talk to the super fast  
**Jodi Koch**. Man, that woman's Expert  
class is fast. I'm glad they start behind  
me by more than a few minutes. Next  
year promises to be even better with  
more advanced promotion and possibly  
a new section added that I found while  
bumming around out there. I'll see  
what Robert says.

**At the event the Northern  
Chapter was surprised to learn that  
we were the recipients of a financial  
gift from the Southwestern Chapter.  
I would like to thank Mike Needham  
and all the members of that great  
group that puts on the Fort Custer race  
and Dirtstock for spreading the wealth.  
This is truly a "state" organization.  
We have many ideas in our chapter  
that are looking for financing and  
this gift will be put to good use. One  
of the projects that Tom Nell and I  
have discussed with the other mem-  
bers is building a booth to be used at  
events, work days, and any other time  
that the message of the MMBA needs  
exposure. We now have the means to  
make this a reality. I recently took over  
the presidency here in the Northern  
Chapter and, though I am still feeling-  
out the position, have a great group of  
people who have accomplished a lot in  
recent history.**

A few years back, as many of you  
may know, the Northern Chapter of the  
MMBA organized and began to  
maintain a trail loop called the VASA  
Single Track Loop. We have worked  
often with the Cherry Capital Cycling



Club and the DNR in the upkeep and  
development of this trail. Last year a  
cut off was added and a reroute was  
introduced and this year two other  
exciting things have come about. To  
complement the longer, 12+ mile loop,  
a shorter section (approx. 3 miles),  
called the "Knightlet Loop" was added.  
This addresses a common problem for  
the inexperienced riders who want  
something more in favor with their  
abilities.

The other great thing that we  
began this year and have almost  
finished is a new parking lot and trail  
head. Those of you who have ridden  
the VSTL know that you were resigned  
to park in the woods on an old dirt road  
when you came to ride the trail.

**Through the efforts of Dennis Bean-  
Larson**, the last Northern Chapter  
president, some of the other members,  
and the work of Dean Sandel of the  
Cadillac DNR office, a DNR grant was  
secured to be used in the construction  
of a parking lot and vault toilet at the  
trail head. The Northern Chapter  
members would like to thank all those  
who worked diligently to get this grant  
and advance the great trail we all enjoy.  
Some of the moneys given by the  
Southwestern Chapter will be used for  
landscaping and a trail head marker at  
the parking lot.

Presently the VASA Pathway  
(which is in the same area as the  
VSTL) has been incorporated with the  
paved multiuse trail in Traverse City  
and the Leelanau Trail System to fall  
under the heading of "TART," or  
Traverse Area Recreational Trail. This  
organization is headed by **Roger  
Putman who has been a friend of  
cyclists here in the area for years.**  
Recently, Roger secured the services of  
Jan and Mike Riter of the IMBA Trail  
Care Crew to come out and take a look  
at routing in the new parking lot as  
well as some issues out on the trail. It  
has yet to be seen what role the MMBA  
(Chatter continue next page)



(Chatter continued from last pg.)

and TART will provide for each other, but the future is to be met with enthusiasm. Also generating some excitement is the new single track loop at the Big M. This is a soon-to-be 27 mile loop that promises to hold much of the value that the North Country Trail does, but with some better design features that should make it even more enjoyable for the MTB'er. The MMBA has been working with the Forestry Service in putting in this trail and the final construction work day will be the 25th of September. Be on the look out for directions posted at the Northern Chapter web site to this up and coming attraction.

## **Southeast**

### **Chapter MMBA**

*By Todd Scott*

Here's some news from the Southeastern Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association:

\* The MMBA has recently developed nearly 2 miles of new singletrack at the Stony Creek Metropark just north of Rochester, Michigan.

\* The MMBA has helped promote a ballot issue for the City of Novi's November elections. The ballot would prohibit the construction of a public golf course on land now used for the Novi Tree Farm trail network.

\* For the third consecutive year, the MMBA had a booth at the Michigan State Fair where we distributed trail and club information.

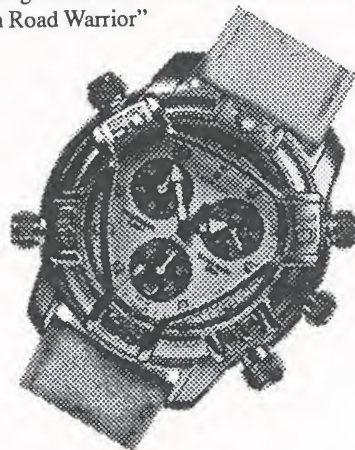
For the latest skinny, check the MMBA website at <http://www.mmba.org>.

A few years ago our Southeast Chapter MMBA submitted a trail proposal for the Lower Huron. The Park said, "not at this time" and referred us to Stony Creek. We submitted a proposal for Stony Creek and as you know, we now have a nice trail that's gotten plenty of positive feedback.



# **FESTINA WATCHES**

Join us at the remaining MMBA CPS races for your chance to get one of the coolest watches on the trail, the "Festina Road Warrior"



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The feedback made it all the way to the Lower Huron and they've asked us to re-submit a plan for a mountain bike trail. We're in the beginning stages of making that proposal.

BTW, they currently have 4 miles of paved trail and another 3.2 miles connecting this park with the Willow Metropark.

**This fall our chapter hopes to:**  
Finish 1 to 2 miles of new singletrack at Stony Creek Metropark \* Begin work on the new South Lyon beginner trail \* Develop a proposal for a mountain bike trail at the Lower Huron Metropark \* Complete the Maybury re-routes.

Also don't forget the  
**BACK ROAD BOOGIE !!!** All the  
(Chatter continue next page)



info is on the web site at:  
(www.mmmba.org).

## Thanks Bud Pell!

Also, as of September, the Southeast Chapter and the MMBA will be seeing one of its most dedicated and hard-working

Volunteers head west. **Bud Pell will be moving to San Diego, California to be closer to family and friends.** If you are one of the thousands of people who enjoy riding Maybury, you have Bud to thank. It was his vision and

tenacity that helped develop one of most innovative and fun metro trails in the Midwest. Working with a limited land resource and sometimes limited numbers of Volunteers, Bud opened the trail in the early 90's. Bud also developed the trail at Ionia Recreation Area west of Lansing and helped at Island Lake, Highland, Bass River and other trails in the state. Bud has won many MMBA accolades and is known also for his Volunteer work with the Detroit Zoo, Winter Special Olympics and other charitable activities.

A send off ride was held in early September at Maybury State Park, where some of Bud's riding friends and DNR Officials joined him for an adventure on the Maybury Trail and some good eats afterwards. It was low key, but full of energy the way Bud likes things to happen. **From all of us in the MMBA and those whose lives you've touched with your Volunteer activities in the Metro community, thank you for all you've done and we'll miss you a lot! Thanks Bud!**

## The Poto Chapter of the MMBA

by Emil Sims/Robert Hurley

### What's been going on:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of June was our annual Triple Trail Challenge. Approximately 100 riders came out to ride

our 40 mile, 3 trail course in and around Pinckney Recreation Area in Pinckney, MI. It's a great combo of half singletrack and half dirt roads/rail-trails and it's free! Be sure you check it out next year.

The Poto has been in pretty good



Bud Pell at the fairwell ride at Maybury Trailhead. Thanks Bud!

shape this season. **Special thanks go to Rick Sanborn for stepping up to the job of Poto Trail Maintenance Coordinator.** He's been organizing trail trimmings as well as heading out by himself to ensure the job gets done. He's also started a trail signage project which will include signs at intersections and confidence/mileage markers. Expect to see signs by early next season. Keep up the great work, Rick!

Brighton is probably my current favorite SE Michigan trail system. Admittedly, I'm biased, but I like the combination of tight steep single track and fast sweepers. **Bernie Smith has been helping organize trimmings and removing lots of storm damage. We had about 15 people at our Aug 7 trimming and we got a lot done.**

E-mail Distribution list: to stay updated on the Poto Chapter's events, you need to be on the list! Send a note to [esims@ford.com](mailto:esims@ford.com) and you'll get all the latest info. The Poto this past year saw about 100 people attend the Triple Trail Challenge: This annual 40 mile, self paced fun ride included sections of the Poto, Waterloo and Lakelands Rails-to-Trails. This was the only opportunity to ride the Waterloo Trail, normally closed to bikes.

Also, just wanted to offer a belated thanks to the Volunteers who came out on August 7 to help trim and mow the Brighton Trail. It looks great!!! The

Volunteers were: Pete Elkowitz, Kentaro Inoue, Crag Garvin, Bob Wolf, Gary Anderson, Bjoern Brunner, Jason Jones, Emil Sims, Chris Heschels, Julie White, Mike Connolly, Bob Zwald, Bernie Smith and Chris Weis.

## West Virginia Trip

In July, the Poto Chapter headed out to Slatyfork, WV to sample some of the best riding in the country. The trails were so good that we're heading back! Contact the chapter for info on possible spring trip.

## Events:

**X-terra Off-Road Triathlon** Sept 17-19: This was the Midwest qualifier for this national series and was held at Brighton Recreation Area. See [xterra.net](http://xterra.net) for info/results. It used the Penosha, Murray Lake and Torn Shirt trails for the 18 mile bike, 6 mile run, after a 1.5 mile swim. The MMBA provided many of the Volunteers for the event! This was part of a national series that will end up in Hawaii.

**Chapter Meeting** September 29 7:30 at Ann Arbor Brewing Co. This is the last meeting of the year. Time to start thinking and planning next season.

**Batman Night Rides:** Oct 1, Oct 22 7:30 PM. We set up camp at Crooked Lake at Pinckney Rec. Join us to camp or just to ride, grill and socialize. Experience some awesome night riding. Just show up, it's free. If you want a campsite, you'll have to head down early.

**Abominable Snowman Ride:** December 11, 10:00 AM. Poto Winter ride. Crooked Lake Campground. The bonfire will be kickin'. We'll need it!

## Northeast Chapter of the MMBA

By Todd Dewell

Greetings from the MMBA crew in the great Northeast. June 6, 1999 National Trails Day proved to be a very hot productive day. **Thanks to Northeast Chapter Members: Kevin Bouck, Randy Wallace, Nick Long, and Earl Norris. All toiled for nearly 8 hours in the 95 plus degree heat putting in two (2) post and plank bridges at the Pine Haven Recreation Area in Sanford Mi. The first bridge,**

(Chatter continued next page)



and biggest part of our project was 100ft in length. It will allow bikers and hikers alike to enjoy our new single track mud and water-free. The second bridge spans a small drainage, and provides a safer more stable crossing. **Both bridges were made possible by our friends at DALMAC and Midland County Parks & Recreation.**

The Northeast Chapter, thanks to its DALMAC grant, was also able to provide funds to the Midland County Parks & Recreation Staff to buy stone products this summer to do trail stabilization work on two key crossings on the cross country trail system. In addition to this the final phase of our original DALMAC proposal will be completed on 9-12-99 when our Chapter hosts its final trail day at Pine Haven. We will be installing all new intersection signage throughout the Pine Haven Trail System, as well as doing trail marking, and general maintenance on our own trail. Interested in volunteering or just want to learn more about our chapter. Please call Todd 517-345-4523 or e-mail [tm dewell@I-star.com](mailto:tm dewell@I-star.com) or Kevin Bouck 517-638-6046 e-mail [bouck@psn.net](mailto:bouck@psn.net).

## Holly Flint Chapter of the MMBA

By Rick Jerrell

As we think of Fall just around the corner, it's time to stand back and take a look at the Chapter's ups and downs this summer. This year has been the worst of my involvement with Holdridge Lakes and it has been the best. **With the loss of our dear friend, Ed Berta...**to the many successful workdays. We truly have come full circle. The tragedy that struck our Chapter has no doubt solidified us into a group. And the many accomplishments and improvements at Holdridge Lakes by the Chapter, speaks for itself. There was the "The Crew" that installed the 32 foot water crossing and then there were the "four grunts," (I was one of them) that put down the concrete pad and walkway for the picnic area. These along with the many Volunteers that participated in this year's National Trails Day Event,

which included the installation of the picnic table and grill, the leveling of road gravel in the parking lot and the many hours spent placing posts, trimming and maintaining trail...have proved the passion you, the membership, have toward Mt. Biking and Holdridge Lakes. **As President of your Chapter, I thank each of you for your commitment!**

One of our most memorable work days was July 31st. The workday was...hot, very hot! There were 18 people at this work day. The day saw the installation of a 32 foot water crossing on the 15.5 mile East Loop (Gruber's Grinder) at Holdridge Lakes, in the Holly Recreation Area. The crossing was built in three 12 foot sections and carried by "The Crew" to its site. The sections were over-lapped and pieced together on-site, providing trail users clean passage throughout the trail system. To date the Holly/Flint Chapter has constructed over 10 water crossings in the Holdridge Lakes Trail System.

**This fall:** This Fall the Chapter will be organizing the construction of the Pavilion to be built at the Trail Head over the picnic table and grill, along with working with the Management of Holly Rec. toward the possibility of Parking Lot Expansion.

## Other Stuff

Instead of driving to work tomorrow, why not hop on the bicycle and pedal in?

According to a report from the Worldwatch Institute, bicycling not only cuts air pollution, but also makes for safer streets, less congestion and less noise in cities. As people are beginning to realize these positive effects on urban living, bicycles are

emerging as a solution to some of today's most intractable urban problems, according to Worldwatch.

Putting bicycles to work could produce enormous savings, like reduced air and noise pollution, better land use, less congestion and lower health costs. "Americans drive cars and taxis more than 1.5 trillion miles each year," said Gary Gardner, author of "When Cities Take Bicycles Seriously," an article in the September/October issue of World Watch magazine. "Shifting just five percent of those miles to bicycles would save at least \$100 billion."

Much of urban travel is already "bike-sized":

Forty percent of all trips in the United States (and 50 percent in Britain) are two miles or shorter. More than 25 percent of all trips are under a mile in the United States. "Cycling could eliminate some of these short, air-polluting trips," Gardner said, citing estimates that 90 percent of emissions in a seven-mile trip are generated in the

first mile before the engine warms up.

In several major cities in the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany, bicycles now account for 20 to 30 percent of all trips. In many Asian cities, the bicycle's share of trips is even higher, accounting for more than half of all trips in some Chinese cities — more than buses, cars and walking combined. In stark contrast, bicycles are used for less than one percent of all trips in Canada and the United States.

Gardner cites numerous examples of how cities around the world are encouraging the use of bicycles by making inexpensive but effective changes in their transportation systems: special lanes near intersections and advanced green lights for cyclists in



Holly/Flint Chapter July workday at a water crossing: Photo By Mary Ann Martin

(Other Stuff continued next page)



# Attention All Trail Volunteers!

MMBA/WTB

## Trail Maintenance Sponsorship First Across The Finish Line 1999

Wilderness Trail Bikes is proud to be a sponsor of the 1999 MMBA First Across The Finish Line Trail Maintenance Program, and recognizes the hard work and dedication that Volunteers put in to keep trails open and to build new trails. Congratulations are in order to all trail workers who did their part and helped to make mountain biking better for everyone. You are the first ones out to clear and repair the trails after winter is over. You are the first ones to lend a friendly hand and to reach out to other trail users. You are the ones who brave the bugs and the mud and the heat to make sure that the trails are ready to ride. Day after day. Year after year. Wilderness Trail Bikes salutes you! You do the sport justice!



### First Across The Finish Line Awards:

- Volunteers with 10 hours of trail work will be eligible for awards
- All riders will benefit from better trails
- Trail volunteer hours will be tallied more efficiently and info sent to IMBA/DNR/USFS/etc.
- The program will continue to develop and enhance our Volunteer relationship with land managers around the state
- It will increase involvement in the MMBA
- It will increase visibility and inspire involvement of all mountain bikers in the MMBA
- It will just plain add to the fun factor of being a member of the MMBA!



*WTB will provide \$1,000 of WTB products to sponsor the Chapter Volunteers of the Year category (total of 9 winners.) The awards are to be given out in February of 2000.*

Muenster, Germany; "bike and ride" links with public transportation in Japan; micro-credit programs to help low-income citizens buy bicycles in Lima, Peru; and a public-private partnership in Copenhagen, Denmark, that provides bikes for public use.

Mayors all over the world are finding that bicycles can also fight crime and cut administrative costs. The average patrol car costs 12 cents a mile to operate, while bicycles run for less than 1 cent a mile. The International Police Mountain Bike Association estimates that more than 2,000 police departments in the United States, Canada, Australia, Iceland and Russia have bicycle units, with some 10,000 officers on bikes. Even better, the IPMBA reports that half of the police departments it surveyed saw a jump in

arrest rates-by an average of 24 percent-when bicycles were introduced into patrol areas.

E-mailed to the MMBA, for more information, contact Mary Caron, email: mcaron@worldwatch.org. Copyright Environmental News Network, All Rights Reserved

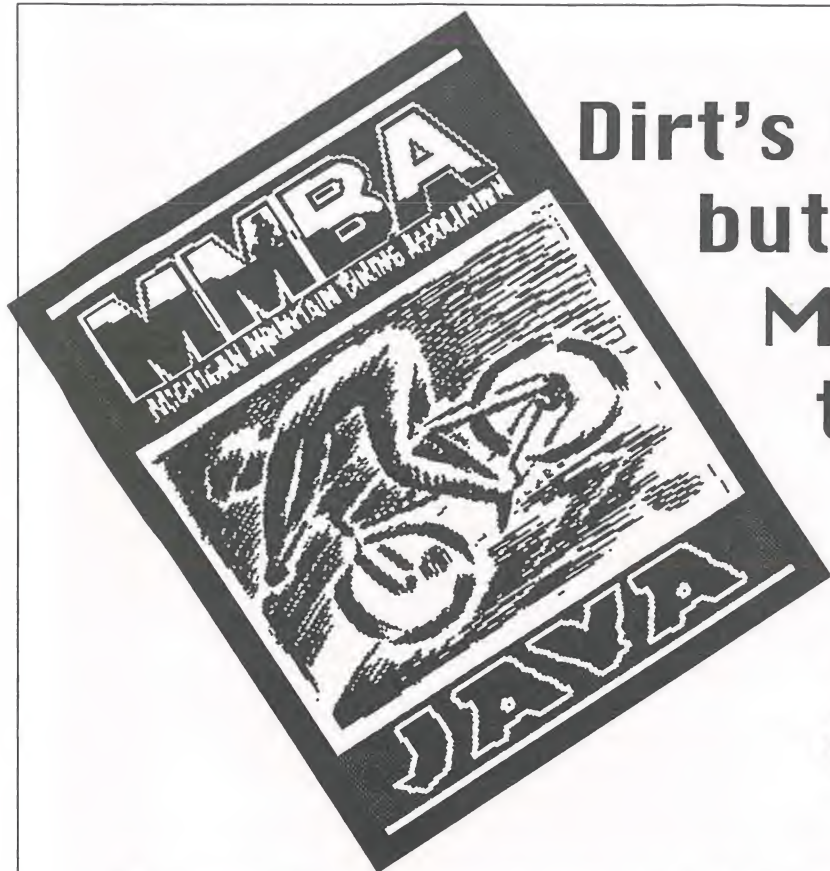
**Remember All State Game Areas are closed to hunting as of September 15th. Please be mindful it's hunting season - be safe- wear hunter's orange clothing.**

**Attention Bikers/Hikers**  
Owasippe Scout Reservation will closed to mountain biking and hiking October 31, 1999 and will reopen January 3, 2000.

Also you must, repeat must have signed an Owasippe Scout Reservation waiver and have a current day use or season pass in your possession (season pass attached to your bike). If you are riding/hiking and, for that matter, hunting on the Reservation without a valid pass you are trespassing and can be prosecuted by law.

See page 23 for more information.





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**\*2 pounds of custom roasted coffee \$15.00 plus S&H\***

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\*MMBA Java comes as whole beans, fresh and ready to be ground.  
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The 5lb size is still your best price. Enjoy!

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**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_ 2lbs. \_\_\_\_\_ 5lbs.

**S&H \$3.00 (per 2-5lbs.)**.....

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: MMBA Coffee, P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306**

**Visa/Master Card (circle one):**

**Account #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp.Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



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(Does your shop's info need updating? Please send copy-ready black and white art that works the best.)



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jason Aric Jones

## Single-speeds: They're Not as Dumb as You Think They Are

How big is the bandwagon in mountain biking? Arguably, pretty darn big. Every year the industry bombards us with the latest in cycling gimmickry. Many times, it seems that we as cyclists are like deer caught in headlights - left awestruck - craving all the new curves, colors, and crazes. Often, we don't even stop to think if something makes sense before we purchase it. This is known in marketing as the bandwagon effect. It's fresh, it's cool, everybody is doing it - time to hop on board.

I'm not gonna sit here at my keyboard and tell you that my decision to build-up a single-speed was well-thought-out, logical and rational. The truth is that I jumped on the bandwagon. Single-speeds have been all the rage in the mountain biking world during the last year or so, and I fell victim to the hype. I mean, if you step back and really think about it - why would anyone want to ride a mountain bike with a single gear, when you can ride one with twenty-seven? What could a single-speed possibly have to offer a cyclist? To my surprise - plenty! I have compiled a list of 10 reasons why single-speed riding makes sense, and why I have barely touched my regular geared MTB since finishing my single-speed in June. Here it goes.

### 1. Simplicity

Ever have miss shifts while riding? Rear derailleur not moving up right? Ever hit a stick and have it pivot your whole front derailleur around? Has chainsuck ever roached your new \$1,000 aluminum frame chainstays and stopped you cold. Kiss mechanicals goodbye my friend, you're single-speeding now. One ring up front, one cog on a BMX freewheel in back, and a chain that's taut enough not to go anywhere except forward.

### 2. Quiet

By now, you are probably pretty oblivious to the clickity-click of your

chain brushing your front derailleur cage, or your chain moving up the rear cassette. Start riding a single-speed and your ears won't know what hit 'em. I still hear lots of sounds when I ride, but now they usually consist of frogs chirping, wind blowing through trees, and water trickling down streams. Hey, who needs those new age nature sounds CDs anyhow?

### 3. Learn to Spin

Ask any pro cyclist about what it takes to win, and undoubtedly they will tell you that you have to be able to maintain a good pedal cadence. In other words, you have to be able to "spin" nice little fluid circles versus mashing and yanking up and down on the pedals. Hit the flats and downhill on a single-speed, and you'll quickly learn how to spin fast and fluid. If you don't, you'll either feel like your standing still, or throw your hip out of place by using a mash n' yank style.

### 4. Build Fluidity and Power

One word means more to the single-track single-speeder than any other: momentum. Use it, or lose it. See that curve coming up followed by that uphill climb? You are probably used to scrubbing off a bit of speed coming into the curve by hitting the brake, then downshifting to climb up the hill. Better rethink that strategy if you are on a single-speed. If you scrub off too much speed before a climb on a single-speed, you are gonna be working a lot harder to get up the hill. Singles-speeders learn early the importance of laying off their brakes. They also learn how to wind sprint a'la BMX style up most shorter climbs. By doing this, they use momentum to their advantage and avoid the prolonged climb-induced leg pain that their lower geared friends don't have to endure. Busting up hills in this manner tends to build-up fast twitch muscles in the legs. Soon, you'll have quads like tree trunks, and be out-sprinting Michael Johnson in the 100 meters!

### 5. Hard Workout

#### without Breakneck Speed

If you race, you build up a pretty good cardiovascular system. Some elite mountain bike racers can probably climb a mile long vertical plane with a heart rate lower than I have during a

3am deep R.E.M. sleep. That said, many racers find that the more conditioned they get cardiovascularly, the harder they

have to work the pedals in order to get a good workout. On a geared bike, this usually translates into spinning faster in a higher gear in order to work harder. On a single-speed, you also have to spin faster to work harder, however, you aren't always gonna go quite as fast with the lower gear ratio on a single-speed setup as you would on a geared bike. This makes single-speeding a bit safer for high-intensity training.

### 6. Lightweight

If you are a weight weenie, single-speeds are for you. Hack off your front and rear derailleurs, two shifters, a cassette, and two chainrings - voila' - your bike is substantially lighter. My Ibis Mojo SS has beefy Spot Brand hubs and a 1998 Marzocchi Z2 BAM fork weighing a whopping 4 pounds! The bike still comes in at about 22.75 pounds.

### 7. Upper Body Workout

As mentioned above in #4, single-speeders are prone to rocketing up short climbs. In order to accomplish this, the single-speeder wants as much power as possible. Thus, most single-speeders turn to a nice wide handlebar with a bit of a rise and backsweep. This derby styling lets your upper body get a lot of leverage, adding much needed power to a pair of hard working legs. (Note: Due to the amount of leverage a single-speeder puts on the handlebars, I recommend a good four bolt stem, as opposed to the usual two bolt cross-country style. Such a stem will be more secure and less prone to leverage induced stem-bar interface "chirp")

### 8. Comfortable Riding Position

See #7 above. Ever ride a true Cruiser-style bike? You know, the kind of bike usually ridden by beachcombers,



(Continued next page)







# dirtstock 99



*The PowerBar tent was a popular site....*

Just wanted to let everyone know what a blast Dirtstock was this year. This was my first time, and first mountain biking event, being that I'm new to the sport. I can't wait for next year. If anyone else was there, I'm the gal with the bloody knees from crash landing on the plastic stuff on the 2nd water crossing of the green trail.

My sincerest thanks and congrats to Gordie Allen and his crew on a job well done!

Laura

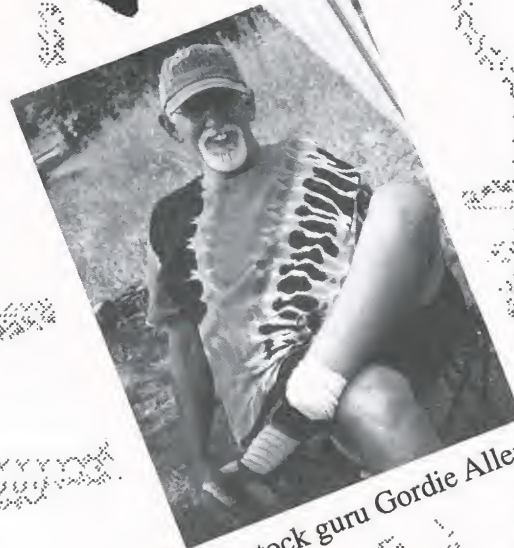
Look for more info on dirtstock 99 on page 23....



*Emil Sims of the Poto Chapter gives it the old "bike toss" heave-ho....This position also doubles as his favorite disco move....*



*Yes, he did ride "grannies garden" balancing the bike soccer ball just like that....mountain bike soccer dirtstock 99....*

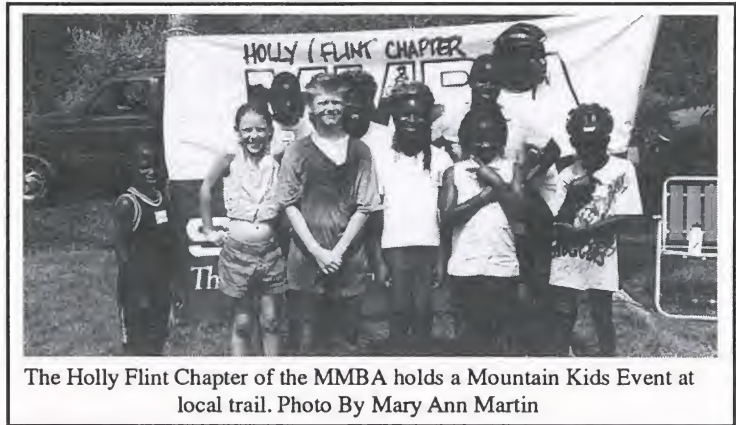


*dirtstock guru Gordie Allen*



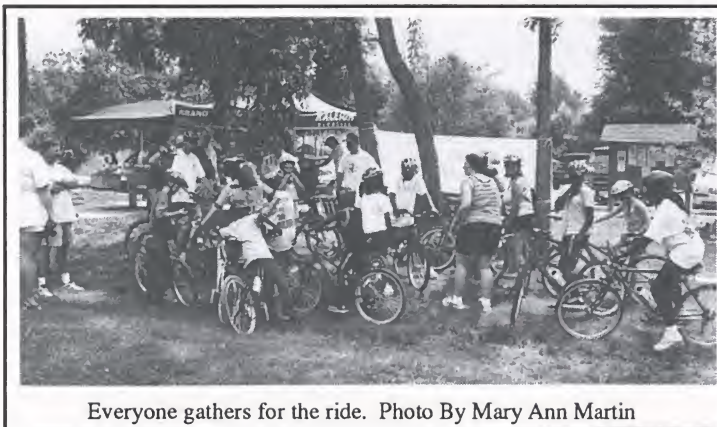
*The "popcorn girls" worked at the popcorn machine each night and provided smiles for everyone!*





The Holly Flint Chapter of the MMBA holds a Mountain Kids Event at local trail. Photo By Mary Ann Martin

## MOUNTAIN KIDS



Everyone gathers for the ride. Photo By Mary Ann Martin

The most recent Mountain Kids event was held by the Holly/Flint Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association. **Mountain Kids** is a youth recreation program designed to provide mountain biking day trips for at-risk children from the community aged 8-12. The trips focus on providing a positive outdoor recreational experience in a "back country" setting for children who wouldn't normally have the opportunity to leave their urban environment. For information on how you can be involved, contact the MMBA.

## The MMBA Seeks Accountant



The MMBA is currently seeking an accountant to do some "pro bono" (i.e. not a paid position) work to assist the organization. This work would primarily consist of the development of an accounting system,

preparation of financial statements, and assistance in completing regulatory filings. If mountain biking and counting beans are your gigs, and you have the inner need to give back some time to the trails through your professional talents please contact the MMBA President Jason Aric Jones (734) 426-7581 or the Executive Director at (616) 7850-0120.





# Millennium Membership Challenge

**So, you've heard about IMBA's 20/20/20 vision?  
Meet the MMBA's 2000/2000/2000 vision.**

**2000 members by the year 2000, and**

**\$2,000**

That's right! The MMBA has nearly 1,600 members and has 2000 members in its sight, and we want it bad. So bad, that we will shell out \$2,000 cold hard cash to the MMBA member that refers the most members between June 1, 1999 and January 1, 2000.\*

So, how does it work? Just get your bud, the milkman, the neighbor's grandmother, your company or anyone else into mountain biking to join the MMBA and you get a point(s) when they write your name as the referring member on their membership application. We do the math. On January 1, 2000, if you have the most points, you win two grand to buy that titanium dream bike, take a trip to Moab, or just stuff in your back pocket when you ride. It's your choice, because only your voice can best express the reasons for your fellow bikers to support the MMBA!

## 2000/2000 Official Contest Rules

(The fine Print - Read Carefully)

1. No purchase is necessary. The contest is open those MMBA members in good standing who are legal residents of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia or any territories of the United States, and who are 18 years of age or older at the time points begin to accumulate. Any membership class may participate in this contest. The contest is also open to officers of any of the 9 local MMBA chapters, except the chapter President. Other than as set forth in these rules, officers, directors, employees of the MMBA or their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the Millennium Membership Challenge.
2. The contest begins at 12am, Tuesday, June 1, 1999 and runs until 11pm, Friday, December 31, 1999. All referring applications must be postmarked or received by the MMBA Membership Secretary no later than 11 pm on December 31, 1999. The MMBA assumes no liability for lost, late, misdirected, damaged, illegible, or postage-due mail or applications.
3. All applications for membership in the MMBA must include the new member's full name, address, phone number, chapter affiliation, membership class (individual, family, or organizational/business), AND the clear legible name of the existing MMBA member who referred the applicant. New members may also apply for membership on-line at the MMBA's web site (<http://www.MMBA.org>), provided that the information indicated above is provided.
4. Points Calculations: For each individual and family membership referral, the referring member shall receive 1 point. For each organizational membership referral, the existing member shall receive 2 points. The referring member must be officially entered in the membership database before any referral points will begin to accrue (i.e. if applications come in that identify you as the existing referring member before you have become a member of the MMBA, you will not receive credit for those points). Contest participants receive no points for their own membership. Points shall be awarded only for referring new members, not for members who renew their membership. For purposes of this contest, a new member is one who has not been a member of the MMBA at any time.
5. Prizes Awarded: No prize will be awarded unless the following conditions are met: the MMBA must reach its target goal of at least 1,700 members by January 1, 2000, AND at least 100 new members must join the MMBA between 12am, Tuesday, June 1, 1999 and 11pm, Friday, December 31, 1999.  
If the above conditions are satisfied, only one prize will only be awarded to the all-around top point recipient in all combined membership classes. The winner will receive a check in the amount of US \$2,000. Winner selection is under the supervision of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Inc., whose decisions are final. Winner consents to use of his or her name and likeness in any promotional material. In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected in a random drawing of the names of the members who have referred the most new members by the close of the contest.
6. Odds of Winning: The total number of eligible entries received will determine the odds of winning. Taxes, where applicable, are the sole responsibility of the winner. For the winner's name, (available January 31, 2000), send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope to MMBA Millennium Membership Challenge, Post Office Box 29, Belmont, MI, 49306.
7. The MMBA will notify the potential winner by mail or telephone at the address or telephone number contained in the MMBA membership database. The potential winner must follow directions contained in any correspondence and return all forms correctly completed within 10 days of the date of correspondence. Correspondence may include a release of liability form. Noncompliance will result in disqualification, and the naming of an alternate winner.
8. The contest is sponsored by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Inc.,  
Post Office Box 29, Belmont, MI 49306.

\* Certain conditions apply. For complete details, please read the official contest rules above carefully.



## MMBA/IMBA Trail Care Seminar A Success!

Dear Dwain,

I want to sincerely thank you, Subaru, Michigan Mountain Biking Association, and the International Mountain Biking Association for choosing Cadillac as the site for your MMBA Trail Care Seminar.

The number of those in



After a half-day in the classroom DNR, National Forest Service personnel and MMBA trail care leaders headed for the Cadillac Pathway for an evaluation of the local trails.



The Trail Care Seminar was video taped and the MMBA is seeking resources to copy and distribute the event.

attendance was truly gratifying and they certainly "got their money's worth" (it was a free seminar) as the Ritters sure know their stuff! I am going to try the kitty litter suggestion on my next garden path!...

Again, Dwain thanks to you, to Subaru, MMBA and IMBA for choosing Cadillac. We appreciated the opportunity to host your event and hope there will be more possibilities in the future.

Sincerely

Carol Potter

Executive Director Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau

Dear Dwain,

Just a short note to thank you, the MMBA, IMBA and Subaru for the very informative session in Cadillac. Mike and Jan Riter were, most certainly, well informed and well versed in the aspects of trail construction and development. I learned more in that four hours than I have in the entire year in regards to this issue.

Mike and Jan were kind enough to visit the VASA Single Track...and with their help we were able to plan how the trail will be routed to the new parking lot being built by the DNR. We met with the DNR...and gave them Mike and Jan's recommendations...Thanks again for all you have done and your dedication. Please extend our congratulations to everyone involved as well as our sincere appreciation.

Sincerely,

Roger Putman

Executive Director  
TART Trails-Traverse City



Mike and Jan Riter  
IMBA Trail Care Crew

## IMBA Launches

New IMBA Web Site - IMBA's new Web site ([www.imba.com](http://www.imba.com)) debuted March 19th. IMBA's new site is part of **GreatOutdoors.com**, the outdoor sports and recreation site developed by Cox Communications in partnership with the Outdoor Life Network. GreatOutdoors.com has become an IMBA corporate backer.

IMBA Snapshot: 13,500 individual members...300 affiliated clubs...105 corporate supporters...staff of 14, plus 2 interns...43 volunteer U.S. state reps. (your MMBA executive director, Dwain Abramowski is your IMBA representative for Michigan.)

Programs included:

Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew  
National Mountain Bike Patrol  
Trail Care Grants





### A recent letter forwarded to the MMBA read:

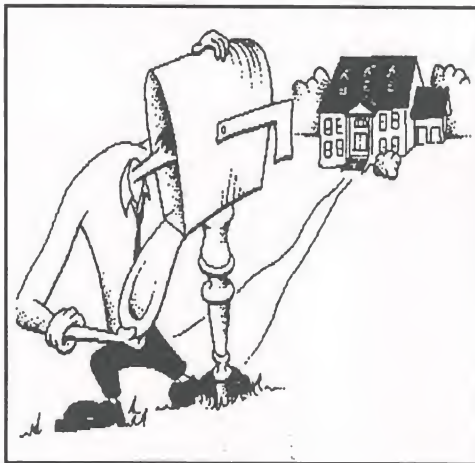
I just read an article entitled "The New Mountain Bike Mecca?" (Michigan is a state with trails on par with some of the best in the country....) in the current issue of Michigan Sports and Fitness. It was a full page article, with a photo of two mountain bikers on it. While it compared the greatness of our trails with other Mountain Bike Meccas in the country, and while the network of trails in the state is largely maintained by MMBA Volunteers, there was NO MENTION OF MMBA in the article anywhere.

What gives?

Jason Aric Jones has already addressed the issue from the standpoint of the MMBA. As a writer for Michigan Sports and Fitness, I must add that Jason was approached last spring by Brian Smith, one of the publishers of MS&F, to supply an article on trails advocacy in Michigan. This was in the wake of an extensive piece in Velo-News about MMBA's grassroots racing program, independent of NORBA. Jason steered the project in my direction. My piece, entitled "No Matter Where You Ride," was published in the May 1999 issue. I took the position that cyclists' access is a multi-faceted issue, where three agencies are hard at work: the League of Michigan Bicyclists on rights to the road; the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, on expanding recreational use of abandoned rights-of-way; and the MMBA, on off-road biking on public land. I interviewed Lucinda Means,

executive director of LMB, Nancy Krupiarz, regional director of RTC, and Jason, MMBA president. An excerpt follows: Peace on Earth?

Getting off the pavement should solve all your problems, right? Not so, says Jason Aric Jones. Even on dirt, the potential for conflict abounds—between cyclists, hikers, equestrians, and even off-road vehicles. As president of the Michigan Mountain



Biking Association, Jones represents some 1,600 members, organized into nine regional chapters. A true grassroots organization, the MMBA has, in its decade of existence, successfully fought the closure of all Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands to off-road cycling, opened up dozens of new areas, and built or improved hundreds of miles of rustic trails through its volunteer program, "First Across the Finish Line." As one of the largest and fastest-growing segments of the recreational mix, off-road cyclists need a voice in the policy-making aspect of land-use planning. It is United We Stand, United We Ride On this point, all three organizations speak as one. "If you don't ask for something, you won't get it," warns Lucinda Means, "and if you're the only one asking, no one will hear you." Jones agrees: "when I sit down at a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, my credibility comes from our membership roster and the performance record of our volunteers." "Urban sprawl", cautions Krupiarz, "means that conflict, even road rage, will increase

where the infrastructure is inadequate. If bikes are seen as an annoyance, and bike facilities as a diversion of road funds, cycling will suffer." [Michigan Sports & Fitness, May 1999]

I write this to dispel any impression that editorially, MS&F is insensitive to the vital role played by MMBA. While it is unfortunate that the writer of the article in question missed the opportunity to point out the fact that the MMBA is largely responsible for making Michigan the mecca that it is, not every rider (or writer) stops to wonder where these wonderful trails come from. We call it the "trail fairy" syndrome—like when you were a kid, and the tooth fairy magically turned your baby teeth into quarters under your pillow while you slept. As an expert in being taken for granted, I simply trust that for every ten or so glaze-eyed, clench-jawed poseurs that blast by me when I'm doing trail work, somebody will slow down and say, "Great work! Are you with the MMBA?"

Dan Harrison,  
Trail Fairy Island Lake.

### Hey Everyone-

A month or so ago many of you contributed to an email I sent to an out of state visitor looking for trails in an area I was unfamiliar with. Here is our visitor's response:

I want to thank you so much for getting me the information on the S.W Michigan trails. I just got back from Coldwater and Constantine a few days ago, and we had a blast on the Custer and T.K. Lawless trails. Especially Custer, but we really didn't have enough time at either one. We especially liked the "Amusement Park" trail. We decided that your "climbing" or "hills" are really a lot different than what we are used to. The extra O2 was great, but the humidity was something I would have to get used to again if I were around there much. The trails were EXACTLY what I had hoped for - twisty, tree-full, not many rocks (which is the main thing to deal with here in CO), logs and roots to pop over...Thanks again, you made the trip great!

Sincerely, Pam





"Old Blue...." in black and white of course....anyone want to give the MMBA a grant for a color publications???

Dear MMBA,

Enclosed is my check for \$34.00 for 2 large, unbleached, cotton fabric shirts imprinted with medium forest green ink on a super heavyweight cotton for me to wear for my riding pleasure.

I'll be counting the days, hours, minutes and seconds, till your awesome looking shirts arrive at my house. And when they do I'm going to put one on and hop on "old Blue" and take a spin down some of the roughest dirt trails I can find!!

Thanks, Brad

for shirt put on backwards or upside down. Always remove shirt before putting it into the washing machine and/or dryer. Though the list of uses for this shirt (i.e. freezer bag, hand cloth, signal flag, formal wear, dog tag, etc.) are

**PUT YOUR HEAD IN HERE!**

**MMBA**  
MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

**YOUR OFFICIAL MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION T-SHIRT IS WAITING!**

COLOR: Unbleached cotton fabric shirt imprinted with a medium forest green ink  
SIZES: L and XL super heavyweight  
A donation to the MMBA of \$17.00 takes care of the shipping and handling!

**Send check made out to the MMBA to:  
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P.O. Box 29  
Belmont MI 49306**

If your shop would like to sell shirts just call 616.785.0120

If your shop would like to have the cool MMBA shirt on hand for your customers just call: 616.785.0120 NOW!

Please, in the interest of safety, always make sure your head is securely fastened on before inserting it into anything. Not responsible for shirt put on backwards or upside down. Always remove shirt before putting it into the washing machine and/or dryer. Though the list of uses for this shirt (i.e. freezer bag, hand cloth, signal flag, formal wear, dog tag, etc.) are

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**Bicycle riders and mountain bikers, Cascade Designs, Inc., the makers of Platypus Flexible Hydration Systems and Therm-a-Rest sleeping pads, are looking for individuals who are interested in putting gear to the test.**

And I mean taking it to the limit! We are searching for riders and backpackers who aren't afraid to get dirty and take a product to its breaking point. Perks for those who participate:

- 1) Testing really cool products
- 2) Compensation for time and energy with Cascade Designs product
- 3) Knowledge that you have provided direction to a product that consumers will see on the shelves in the next 6-12 months.

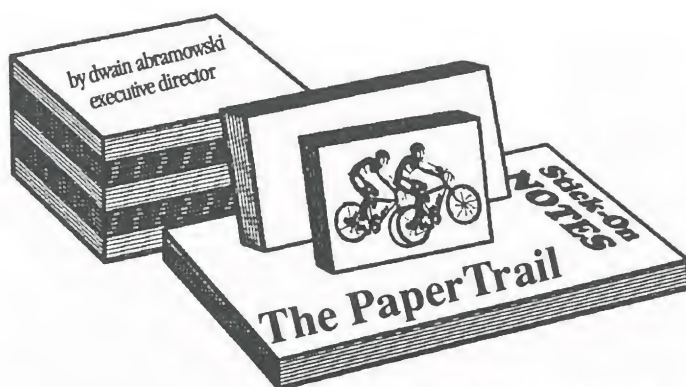
If there are any individuals who are interested in participating from your clubs or teams in outdoor research studies, please have them contact me at the following numbers. We do have an upcoming study in October for which we would like to line up some participants.

Brian Mandell  
Marketing Assistant  
Cascade Designs, Inc.  
brian@cascadedesigns.com  
or by phone at 1-888-801-5335 ext.1519

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you in the outdoors!

**Remember All State Game Areas are closed to hunting as of September 15th - Remember it's hunting season - be safe-wear hunter's orange clothing.**





Those of you who are connected to the MMBA list-serve might have noted that last spring I started a monthly update note called "The PaperTrail". I started the discourse to keep those interested in the hustle and bustle of day-to-day MMBA endeavors apprised of current MMBA activities. Well, I was less than successful in getting it out once a month, though there would have been lots of items to talk about. In short, it has just been a very busy summer for the MMBA.

I will try and get you updated here in what is already, September.

There have been a series of meetings taking place in Northwestern Lower Michigan coordinated by the Northwest Council of Governments. It is a Northwest Michigan Greenways Project / Trails and Non-motorized Transportation Planning Committee. It covers Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford counties. Officially, its goal is to "provide a forum for representatives of local government agencies to plan for trail systems with trail interest groups and community residents to ensure maximum community support and regional coordination, enhance the opportunity to secure state, federal and private funding for local trail project implementation and recommend to the Planners Review and Advisory Committee opportunities for action..."

Yea, right.

**In short if you live in these counties or visit the area there is an effort underway to basically get a total inventory of trails in this 10 county area.** The purpose of the meetings is to find out what is out there, where it is (GPS), its condition, its purpose (multiuse, hiking, biking, equestrian, skiing, etc.) and produce information that can eventually be

cataloged and made available to the public.

Meetings are held once a month (average) at various sites/cities around the 10 county region (Belaire, Charlevoix, Traverse City, Cadillac, etc.). Virtually everyone who is interested in trail development/use is invited to participate. Ideally, it is something the Northern Chapter of the MMBA is very interested in, but there are many hands on activities that need the attention of the Northern Chapter of the MMBA right now (new parking lot at the VASA trailhead, Big M Ski area, funding and Volunteer development, etc.). So, I've been representing all those who live in the 10 county region and those of you from around the state that come up to use the trails.

**I have been advocating on your behalf the appropriateness of multiuse designations on trails, guiding information and acceptance of new trail development.** I help note trails that were missed in the cataloging of information so far and help to develop an understanding of the positions of other trail users. Ultimately, I been involved in the process to determine how we can all achieve the experience we seek on the trails. Needless to say it's not like riding a trail, but it has been essential in maintaining our presence as the decision making process of the Northern Council of Governments unfolds. If you would like I can send you the agendas and information secured at the meetings so far. The goal is to achieve the goals of the project by sometime next year. I will continue to represent you as this project unfolds.

Speaking of the cataloging of trails....

As you know a moratorium has been in effect for the last year on State Park and Recreation area trails. **Though trail care has been taking**

place through the efforts of MMBA Volunteers as needed, actual development of new trails specified or implied in various Park and Recreation Area master plans has been restricted. Meanwhile, non-motorized trail use is up across the board. With the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan goals on hold, this has increased the incident of trail related dissonance at some of the more active and crowded parks.

Pontiac Lake is a good example of the user group complications between a few equestrians and mountain bikers that the moratorium has generated. Pontiac Lake is a very busy trail system near Detroit. With a virtually complete master plan worked out by the Friends of Pontiac Lake, the Pontiac Lake Trail Riders Association (equestrians) and the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, trail enhancing implementation has been on hold throughout the summer and beneficial park user-centered events hang in limbo for 2000. This is not to fault any one organization or individual for the current state of affairs precipitated by the moratorium, but it is the inevitable result of trying to meet the needs of those that use Park and Recreation facilities. In the end, this process reflects the commitment of the DNR and user groups in the course of stewardship that reflects a commitment to protect and maintain our natural resources, as well as development of the public properties.

This fall will see a renewed commitment of the DNR to act upon the Pontiac Lake Master Plan with internal and public meetings scheduled in October. A November meeting is scheduled where the moratorium issue will be addressed at the first user group representatives meeting with a consultant organization. The DNR has enlisted a consulting organization to facilitate the resolution of issues and potential development of objectives for our Parks and Recreation Areas as we head into the next century.

This past summer has seen a lot of inauspicious interaction between user groups, but this is not so much an indication of discord, as it is a **signal that the master plan's implementation is needed and there must be a commitment to its goals and objects. In simple terms this means enforcement of any rules or regulations of**

*(continued next page)*



**the master plan that effect user groups.** This past summer there were some trail care activities that simply had to take place to deal with concerns that could not wait for the formal implementation of the master plan. The MMBA, at the direction of the DNR, completed the project and the trail care activities were performed in accordance with the master plan objectives. However, with the trail work completed, the MMBA member Volunteers saw their efforts destroyed right before their very eyes by a group of equestrians who acted with a lack of either understanding of the master planning work done by the Pontiac Lake Trail Riders (PLTR) Association and the MMBA or with blatant disregard for the efforts of the two user groups. In any case, the trail work was severely damaged by the horse riders and the efforts of the PLTR and MMBA set back. This type of activity cannot be tolerated by the PLTR, the MMBA or the DNR.

Jason Jones and myself attended a subsequent Department of Natural Resources Commission meeting where we expressed our concerns to the Commission and the Chief of Parks, Mr. Stokes. Our concerns were given careful consideration and we received a verbal commitment that any rules at the park would see stepped up enforcement as the process continues to end the moratorium and timely implementation of the master plan. Hopefully users will notice an increase in the presence of DNR personnel and other enforcement organization at the park this fall and early winter.

Another issue addressed at the NRC meeting was the possible sale of land at Highland Recreation Area. In short the MMBA generally does not support any sale of public land for cash. The area in question at Highland was being considered for a composting operation. The MMBA shared its

concerns that the segment of land may contain wildlife trails, sensitive plant species and possible trail related development concerns. It was just recently that the MMBA expressed these same concerns over a piece of land and non-motorized trail at the Pinckney Recreation Area, and that sale did not take place.

This past summer the MMBA also hosted an MMBA/IMBA Trail Care Summit in Cadillac (see story on pg. 9). It was attended by a wide variety of Land Managers from around state as well as MMBA trail coordinators. The amount of information that

Michigan DNR State Forest program and the Forest Recreation Advisement Committee (FRAC) where we are continuing to try and hammer out a process and vehicle for funding forest recreation related expenditures and overhead (parking lots, cross-country trail grooming, water wells, toilets, signage, maps, etc.) The focus has been on the work of a consultant who has been doing an extensive evaluation of the status of the forest system currently. Our next meeting is set for October where we'll be able to affect timely action according to the information we received.

A series of meetings also took place with the Huron Manistee National Forest Service as we continue to work on the Big M Ski Area mountain biking trail. The entire 20-plus mile loop in the Udell Hills area of the Huron Manistee National Forest between Cadillac and Manistee should be open by late fall. For those Volunteers who have been working on the trail it is no secret how cool this trail will be when it is finished. Unlike other trails in the area (North Country, Cadillac Pathway, etc.) this is being designed as a singletrack and its multiuse nature will be most friendly to mountain biking with elevation gains and a narrow presentation of the trail through the forest being a priority. Contact the Northern Chapter of the MMBA for more information.

**There is more....**

Many hours and meetings were also spent by Jason Jones, James Partridge and myself on the development of our latest fund raiser, **MMBA Big Ring Ale.**

This latest venture is an effort to fill the void in the MMBA budget left by bike industry sponsors, who have in general, not directed their support toward grassroots advocacy (those noted in the BRB and other MMBA info notwithstanding). So, let me name those who have not been giving to the MMBA advocacy efforts....well... you know who you are. **Big Ring Ale will be produced and sold through the Michigan Brewing Company of Webberville** and can be found and/or requested from licensed retailers across the state. **It must be noted that the MMBA supports the responsible production and consumption of a good tasting Ale, not drinking.** So, if

*(continued next page)*



**The Big Ring Ale label was designed by Dan Clark...Thanks Dan**

was shared at this meeting could fill this entire publication. However many chapters had representatives there and it is important that before trail care and development activities take place those who attended the summit be consulted. The MMBA is in the process of forwarding a video of the program to IMBA and we hope to be able to share the information with a larger audience soon. We also hope to hold a trail care workshop lead by those MMBA Volunteers who attended the summit at your MMBA Annual Meeting this February. Keep in touch with your chapter leadership for more information.

This past summer also saw a series of meetings take place with the



*(paper trail continued from last page...)*

you plan on being stupid with your adult consumption of alcohol please do not drink, and especially do not drink MMBA Big Ring Ale. Plans are on the drawing board to come out with an MMBA Root-beer and an MMBA Sports Drink. Look for info on these products in the future.

A special thank you goes to **James Partridge** for his council on this venture and **Dan Clark** for his art extraordinaire found on the MMBA Big Ring Ale label.

A special thank you goes out to the Southwest Chapter of the MMBA again for holding another successful dirtstock® 99 event. Blue Skies, warm weather, plenty of food, mountain biking videos, music, prizes, adventures and tons of riding fun greeted the largest crowd ever. The MMBA benefit is the result of much dedication and hard work of the Southwest Chapter of the MMBA headed by **Gordon Allen** and **Mike Needham** and their list of Volunteers, Team Active, Trek, PowerBar and others. If you happen to talk with Gordon or Mike don't forget to thank them for their commitment.

Directly benefiting from the event is the Northern Chapter of the MMBA who received a \$500.00 check of support for their activities. The Northern Chapter covers a very large area and membership does not reflect the potential in the area and **Terry Ritter**, the Northern Chapter President hopes to use part of the financial support to secure a larger membership base to take care of the trails in Northwest lower Michigan.

The dirtstock® 99 event and Team Active of Battle Creek also achieved the goal of raising general funds for the MMBA, with a check of \$1,000. The MMBA is the local Chapter each one of you belong to and the MMBA is also each one of the other eight Chapters you don't "belong" to. However, together (9 chapters strong) we are 1,600+ mountain bikers who are setting the

goals and directions for mountain biking for the decade to come. Each dollar raised by the MMBA/Chapters helps make the voice of advocacy that much stronger and louder. Your Southwest Chapter of the MMBA is working hard for each of you, don't forget to step up as an individual, as a chapter and as an MMBA member to do your share. Thank you to all that volunteered at dirtstock® 99, you're the best of the MMBA!

activities. It was also a great time to show off the MMBA/Subaru Forester. Jason has had the vehicle since July and has been driving it to all the MMBA events and points series races possible. Thank you Subaru!

And you know there is still more that went on this past summer with the MMBA. If you want to know more just contact me (616-785-0120). I hope to be able to find the time to do additional installments of the PaperTrail this fall....upcoming activities: CABDA



*Look for MMBA President Jason Aric Jones and the MMBA/Subaru Forester at many MMBA events throughout the fall. Thank you Subaru!*

This summer also saw the MMBA's presence at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit. MMBA President **Jason Aric Jones**, Southeast Chapter President **Todd Scott** and other volunteers worked a booth at the fair handing out information and answering questions about trail-related

Bike (Chicago Area Bike Dealers Association), Forest Recreation Meeting, State Park Planning Meeting, Northern Council of Governments Meeting, Annual Meeting Planning, MMBA Board Meeting, CABDA Consumers Show Planning, and more....yikes it looks like this fall will be as busy as this past summer!



## MMBA MISSION STATEMENT

To promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.



Get your pass today! Just contact the numbers below...



SAMPLE

**1999-2000  
SEASON BIKE  
PASS**

Expires May 30, 2000



## Attention Bikers/Hikers

Owasippe Scout Reservation will be closed to mountain biking and hiking October 31, 1999 and will reopen January 3, 2000.

Also you must, repeat must have signed a Owasippe Scout Reservation waiver and have a current day use or season pass in your possession (season pass attached to your bike). If you are riding/hiking and, for that matter, hunting on the Reservation. Without a valid pass you are trespassing and can be prosecuted by law.

Also small game hunting season started September 15th and archery deer season starts October 1st. **Ride wearing hunter orange only!**

The Western Chapter of the MMBA will be setting up an informational booth at the trailhead several weekends this fall and spring to spread the word on these new rules. We are guests on the Reservation, please follow all rules posted and stay on posted trails only!

For more information contact the Owasippe Scout Reservation at: 231-894-4061 or Marty Jones MMBA Western Chapter President at: 616-363-1869.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Nothing in the Tour de France was  
as hard as this...People should  
know that it's the hardest two hours  
in bike racing..." Lance Armstrong,  
He finished 6th in Mount Snow National  
Championship Final. He had a finishing time 3:27  
minutes behind Green's winning time of 2:12:08.....



**The parking lot is in!** The VASA Singletrack now  
has a designated parking area off Supply Road, in Traverse  
City. There will also be vault toilets and water available soon.  
For more information on what is happening in the Northern  
Chapter of the MMBA see Chapter Chatter on page 4. After  
the big machine work was done, **six chapter Volunteers from  
the MMBA and the Cherry Capital Cycling Club spent 4  
hours working on moving 10 yards of gravel and tying the  
singletrack loop into the parking lot. Thanks To All!**

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"STEEP AND CRAGGY IS THE PATH OF THE  
GODS." PORPHYRY